Mercurius Venereus,

WHEREIN

He Relates what hapned to Him in his ſeverall SHAPES and TRANSMIGRATIONS.

AND

Communicates *Intelligence* From all Places, except the *HEAD QVARTERS.*

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

By *Borealis de la Garde.*

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MERCVRIVS VENEREVS:

Wherein he Relates what hapned to him in His ſeverall Shapes and Tranſmigrations.

THough the name of *Mercury* hath been lately ſo defyl'd, that ſcarce a ſcurrilous ſheete hath appear'd, but it hath aſſumed his Name; yet ſince they have injured him only in his Office, of politick capacity, it is the more pardonable.

Reader, the *Mercury* you have ſo much heard of, I am, who do now appear abroad, to ſhew thee, that I have a naturall, or phyſical capacity too, though it be but a moderne one, wherein I am as ſerviceable to *Venus*, as I was heretofore to *Iupiter*.

It is not yet full an hundred years ſince *Mercury* made *Vulcan* a Cuckold, and had firſt to do with *Venus*, ever ſince vvhich time I am known by the pleaſing appellation of ſweet *Mercury*: Since *Paracelſus* made me one of his Trinity, conſtituting me the third principle, or creator of all things, I have been ſufficiently debaſed by his Succeſſors; for whereas heretofore I plaid the theef for mine own uſe,

now the Chymiſts ſend me to the bottome of your pockets to pick the money out for their worſhips; and though they give you nothing in exchange, yet they call it tranſmutation: and if they would ſtop here, they were as reaſonable as other Phyſitians; but they ſend me of an errant into the bowels, and bodies of both ſexes, where I ſhould, though an unpleaſing gueſt, ſojourne all my life, if I did not ſometimes make an eruption, or get out at another door, like that poor Queene, who ſunke down at Cheering Croſs, and roſe up at Queene-Hive: by this meanes I come to know the ſecrets of perſons, of all conditions and qualities, which for the publick good I do intend to declare in this enſuing Diſcourſe.

Firſt, then, that I may not be thought a Leveller, I will begin with the Lords in Parliament aſſembled: Into one of whom I got admittance (it ſeems the priviledge of Peeres protects them only from Law, but not from Phyſick) here I expected to have been at the inventing of ſome rare Plot, agreeable to my active nature; for it was juſt as the *Scots* Army had entred upon *Engliſh* ground; and to that end, thought to have mounted up into this great perſons head, but I found that ſo filled with lead before, that there was no roome for poor *Mercury*; nay, I could not make him ſenſible of the dangerous courſes he run, ſo that I found nothing more certaine then that, *Ex quovis ligno non fit Mercurius*. We ſhould ſtay ſometimes three houres together in expectation of what the *Iuncta* of Ladies had contrived, which we ſwallowed without bones; whence I learned, that as the Commons are ſervants to the people, ſo the Lords are to the Ladies: but this courſe of life was ſo contrary to my Genius, to ſit ſtill three or four houres and do nothing, that I tooke the opportunity of his

his yawning, (for he never ſpoke,) to ſteale out of his mouth and be gone; though ſince I heare I might have ſtayed, for that they are now to ſit no more.

When thus I had obtained my liberty, I found the Army was marching out of *Wales*, to fight the *Scots*; then would I rather then my life have turned Souldier, to have revenged the many injuries, affronts, and confinements put upon me by Quacks of that Nation, who are more, I dare ſay, then of all the world beſide; but I perceived it was a harder matter to get into the Army, then into the houſe of Peers: in ſumme, it was impoſſible to obtaine entrance, whether it were that they would not ſpend ſo lightly, or that they have all handſome wives, (as moſt other Preachers have) I know not, but now it will be much more difficult to gain admiſſion, for as much as I underſtand they have caſt off their Doctor of Phyſick: well fare the Cavalier Souldiers yet, though they are better born, yet they are not ſo hard of acceſs, a Gentleman, as the Play hath it, is known by his Gentleman-like conditions: this I am ſure (my friends of the Army) they would never have ſuffered themſelves to have been twice conquered by ſuch Sectaries as you are, if they had been *tam Marte, quam Mercurio.*

Being diſappointed here, I thought to make my addreſs to the *Iuncta*-Ladyes, that I might comprehend (though amongſt the Lords I could not, by what deepe and grave councels, this laſt Summers war was mannaged; but I failed of my attempt there too) for they were ſo ſtricken in years (as wiſdome you know, is the daughter of gray haires) and had been ſo accuſtomed to *Mercuries* ſervice, that they were grown (like *Mithridates*) proof againſt me, and knew by experience that I was but like *Herb Iohn* to

 them,

them, and could doe no further good to their faces, or harme to their bones: all that I learnt here, was, that moſt of the beauties turne wits afterward, as naturally as a Caterpillar becomes a butterflie; and laſt of all arrive to be Statiſts.

Finding my ſelfe like thus to remaine in *Cuerpo*, I reſolved to doe as Gallants doe, who when (in a long vacation, or plague time) they finde themſelves deſtitute of the amours of gallant Ladies (which, you will ſay, is a hard caſe in theſe dayes) are faine to betake themſelves to *Bloomesbury*; ſo I, rather then I would want a place to hide my head in, rendered my ſelfe at diſcretion to my old enemy the *Chymiſt*, who when he had exulcined and tortured me, ſent me priſoner into the body of a fat Lawyer, who had not long before married a Ladies daughter, by which match he became ſo much a Gentleman, that he was made fit for my Company; at my firſt entrance into his head, I found all in diſorder, nothing but crabbed entails and caſes, but I mended the conveiances in his brain, and opened more obſtructions then are in the ſale of Biſhops Lands: at laſt, his little Law, and leſſe equity, by the help of the nimbleneſſe I lent his tongue, brought *Fndy's* home, for I put mettall into him, and he played the Phyloſophers ſtone, and turned all that mettall into Gold; had not he then a good wife, that could heighten his eloquence thus; and by her practice mend his? One day my Lawyer went to plead at the Committee of Indempnity, and as he was opening a Petition, I crept up into one of his eyes, to peep out, and looke about me, to ſee if I could ſpie any of my acquaintance, and vvho ſhould I firſt blunt upon, but a worthy Member of that Committee, whoſe inward friend I had long been, when he

he ſavv me, he was ſo angry, that I ſhould come to affront and upbraid him there, that he ſilenced my Counſellour, and vvould never heare Petition opened ſince. Notwithſtanding, my Patron was not long after made Sergeant, and as he was trimming himſelfe in the glaſſe, I could not abſtaine from looking abroad againe, to behold by reflection his reverend aſpect, when finding his beard ſhaved, and a coife on his head, I conceived my ſelfe to be a gueſt to one of theſe ancient procuring Matrons, in whoſe corps I had been ſo often tormented; and without farther ſtudy, broke out at his noſtrils in a ſneeze, and carryed away halfe his braines with me; but the remaining halfe vvill be ſufficient for him now, ſince he is to have double fees.

When I was got out here, I bethought vvhat could happen to me worſe, and could gueſſe nothing, except I ſhould be ſent (as the Devils were) into ſvvine. Well, imployment grew ſcarſe, and *Mercury* cannot be idle: I was reſolved to trie my fortune anew, and bound my ſelfe apprentice to an Apothecary, who preſently ſold me to one of your renevvers of nature, or menders of Ladies faces, who was a french man, newly come over to recruit, and lengthen out Engliſh beauties; My new Maſter clapt me into a pot, with ſome other ingredients, and ſent me to a Country Lady, new come to Towne, to take off her husbands Sequeſtration, from whom ſhe had received two things in commiſſion: Firſt, to ſtrive to looke faire when ſhe went to the Lords, and then to take care, ſhe fell not acquainted with the wits; and being by a great Lady addreſt to my Maſter, and being ſupplyed in the firſt point, by ſpreading me as thick as bread and butter on her face, ſhe goes one morning to

Weſtminſter,

Weſtminſter, to the lobby by the Lords houſe, but it not being much paſt eleven, which is too early an houre for their Lordſhips, ſhe enquired the way to the Commons Houſe, at whoſe doore ſhe waited, till a ſpruce handſome Gentleman, powdered, perfumed, and ſet round with ribbons of ſeverall colours, came out, to vvhom ſhe makes her application, and cries, Sir, if I were ſure you vvere not one of the wits (as I hope you are none, for you ſeeme to be a fine Gentleman) I ſhould invite you to my lodging; but indeed my husband hath given me warning of thoſe naughty men, who they ſay, if a poore Lady doe but pleaſure a friend, or be troubled with the rheume at the mouth, or a cold in her bones, preſently they make ſongs and libels of her, and doe no more eſteeme the embraces of perſons of quality, then of a milkemaid, or a Landreſſe: The Monſieur, with a low leg, replies, I beſeech you Madam to ſatisfie your ſelfe that I am none of the wits; if I were, I ſhould ſcarce have the honour to ſit vvithin the walls of this houſe: they alas are careleſſe, ſlovenly people; vvhereas I have all my cloathes, powder, linnen, nay, gloves and ribbons out of *France*; beſides, I voted the Army to be disbanded eighteen moneths agoe, with ſix weekes pay, and have ever ſince been of the ſide againſt them, even ſince the *Scots* were beaten, and made a bonfire at my doore, the laſt 19. of *November*. And then Madam, tis well knovvne, that I honour great Ladies ſo much, that I am ſeldome out of their company, and had rather looſe my money at twelve-peny-Gleeke with them, though I ſee them jogg one another, or be ſeene with them in a velvet coach in Hide-parke, though it coſt me tvvo peeces in ſtoops, or venture my health to enjoy the

the oldeſt of them, then be plunged in the embraces of a young, freſh, innocent Countrey beauty, with an Ordinance of an indempnity in her breech: more he would have ſaid, but my Lady was by this ſatisfied, that the Gentleman was none of the wits, which makes her invite him to her lodging in *Covent Garden*, about eleven a clock that night: he promiſed to obey the ſummons, though for the preſent he was much diſtracted with publique buſineſſe; and had his head full of freedome, honour and ſafety.

He keeps the aſſignation, and comes; after the uſuall complements, ſhe fals to tell the ſtory of her life and buſineſſe, which is too dull for *Mercury* to remember, and concludes all with an earneſt requeſt, that he will tell her what theſe wits are, that ſhe may avoyde them: he eaſily condeſcends, and begins; Madam, you muſt know, that before theſe warres, the wits were a Corporation, or rather a Monopoly, for no man was ſuffered to be accounted able, or eſteemed for parts, if he were not free of their company, or at leaſt, had licence from them; They ſet up ſome for Schoole Divinity and Fathers; Others for inventing new Religions; Some for Politicians; The inferiour ſort, for Poetry, and all for Scepticks. Hither all the young Courtiers, and Innes of Court men made their addreſſe, to know whether they might like the laſt new play or no? whether ſuch a Lady might be cride up for a wit? or ſuch a new face rankt among the beauties? whether ſuch a worke was well written? and they gave out their orders, as duly as *Sion Colledge* did, what Doctrine was to be preacht. Theſe wits were eſteemed and honoured every where but at the Court, where they were abominably laught

at; notwithstanding some of them repented since, were converted from being wits, and dyed in the Kings service; Those that remaine of them, are so few, and so scattered, that they are not able to set up; such of them as are of the Kings side, are all to be Secretaries of State, the rest are about this Town; you may know them by their discourses of the affaires and resolutions of Christendome, by their curiosity and desire to see strange things, by their crying downe our English wayes and behaviour, by their invectives against the Ladies of this Towne; a Lady cannot whisper in Company, but they are so malicious, that it must be an appointment, or at least, want of breeding; If a Countesse talke aloud, sweare, or drinke a quart of Sack at a meeting, they will help her into a *Lampoon*; In summe, the poore beauties of this Age stand in more awe of them, then they doe of *Obadiah*. If a Lady slip aside at a ball, and be lost two houres with her Gallant, the wits finde her out: If a maid be but out of Towne three monthes, or a young widdow leave off her busk, they will be playing the Phylosophers, and searching out the cause. A great Lady cannot eat her break-fast in bed, and dine within an houre after, make one colation at *Hide-Parke*, and another at *Spring-Garden*, and then goe to a great Supper at *Picadilly*, or the Beare, and at last, be entertained with a Banquet on the water, and this not above six times a week, but these will be apt to thinke her a glutton. And then they will make you such Encomiums of the Ladies of Queen *Elizabeths* time, who understood worth, and esteemed men of parts (and those they would have you conceive to be such as themselves) they tell you that then an Anagram on a Mistresses name, or a Sonnet to

her

her could prevaile more then all the Sullibubs, and Cheescakes of the Age; whereas these women (they tell you) had rather heare one crie God dam me Madam, or whistle a French tune, then have whole *Arcadiaes* made to them: then they will count you long stories, what wise discreet husbands parents would in those dayes provide for their daughters, and adde, that now, if a young Gentlewoman doe not marry a foole, her mother will thinke her cast away; and if the poore Bridegroome prove in time to have any Sparkes of wisdome, is ready to put him for a cheat. They will urge next, that there was no Lady in those dayes, but scorned to accept Diamond Rings, to have Gownes sent them by Gentlemen out of *France*, to be fancied at Faires, or be trusted by Millaners, for gloves, ribbons, or Spanish red, or to walke in the Exchange to have sweet meates given them. If a woman of quality be led in *Spring garden*, by a Gentleman bare-headed, you shall have one of them breake a jest, and cry, why should men be suffered in these dayes of Reformation to worship in Groves? If any of them get admittance into a Ladies chamber, and finde her *Sperma-ceta-maske*, he exclaimes (by way of a Saryricall strong line) oh what a case are we poore men in, that the whales lust must be brought hither to enflame ours! If he finde out her Sunday teeth, though they be of purest Ivory, they cannot scape him, but he will crie out, What, must both the Sea and Land Monsters, *Leviathan* and *Behemoth* contribute to the luxury of this Age? one to plaister the cheeke, and the other to repaire the jaw? but these are sometimes scorned in their kinde, for I am credibly informed, that he who writ

the Parliament of Ladies, dyed not long after of a Pryapisme, and not a Lady, or Gentlewoman in this Town could be entreated to take pitie on him, and cure him: a judgement much like that, which befell the Author of *Ignoramus*, who lost a living for want of a Lawyer. Then they are as hard to be pleased with men too, and as censorious as Schoole-masters: They will allow a quibble to be no jest, & cannot heare a gingle with patience, they dispraise you *Quarlles*, and *Withers* works, and cric up Dr *Donnes* Poems, *Coopers Hill*, and Mr *Mayes* Continuation: And if any of them chance to be married, or keep a Mistresse, they are as vigilant over them, and as jealous; Here the young Lady could hold no longer, but exclaimed, marry! out upon them villaines, Ile heare no more of them, I shall keep my selfe well enough from them, and addes, Sir, I feare it is late, and you may have farre to your lodging, if you please to accept halfe my bed, you shall be very welcome, for my husband saith, he is so confident of my affection, that he dares trust me with any living: The Gentleman was somewhat startled in Conscience, for to say truth, his conversation vvith great Ladies had made him stand more in need of me, then the Lady: notwithstanding, recollecting himselfe, that his Covenant (as he was much for the Covenant) did engage him to bring Delinquents to punishment, of whom the Lady was one; he consented, and leaps into the bed, and she (as soone as she had put out the candle) takes a cloath, and wipes me off from her cheeke, and shewes me a way tovvard the fire, by the help of which I soone evaporated away, and got my libertie, without being able to know what this vvorthie member

member did in her husbands, or her businesse.

The description I had heard made of a vvit, filled me with ambition, to be in the possession of one of them, vvhich was croſt a long time, for that this Sect of men have little to do vvith Phyſitians; at laſt, by the help of a Baud, and a *Scots-man*, I got entrance into one, who ſoone perceived vvhat gueſt he had (notwithſtanding that the *Scots-man* cry'd, The Deel tack my ſal gif ye gat eny) and vvould never reſt till he vvas rid of me; it ſeems men of the ſame profeſſion cannot bear one another, vvhich was the cauſe that vve two great vvits could not live under one roofe, ſo that by the helpe of an able Quack, he made me be drawn by the head and ſhoulders out of his ſhin-bones; the example, and miracle of vvhich converted almoſt all the wits, and they are ſince married; for though they are ſcattered and diſperſed, yet they, like the *Iews*, keep a ſtrict correſpondency.

The next body I got into, was a great maſty *London* Parſon, with a red head, which was thus; this Patriarke was not ſo much of the Spirit, but he was ſomewhat for the fleſh too, which made his wife, out of pure jealouſie ſend for me, and put me into a caudle, to diſpatch him; but as the devill would have it, and the ſins of his Pariſh, being brought to him one day, as he was reading the Perfect Occurrences, to examine his Hebrew, and con his Intelligence by heart, to help him out with his next thankſgiving Sermon, he ſwallowed me, but his red head overcame me, it being naturall for one poyſon to conquer another, and ſo I could do him no harme: but he had little need of my help, for he never preached, but he could poyſon the people without *Mercury*: he was a great dri-

ver of State affaires, the Presbyterian members rid him, and he rid the City, and begot Petitions, and Remonstrances, no man was a more punctuall expecter of the Northren Letters then he, in hope to be inspired from *Scotland* (for the Spirit, as it did from *Rome* to *Trent*, comes thence every week in a cloakbag) and he was once gathering hands to a Petition, to have the day of the Posts arrivall changed from Munday to Saturday, that so the people here might know their duty out of the Pulpit a week sooner: When he inveighed against the sins of his Auditory, he did it with so much scurility, that they could not be more ashamed of them, then they were of him, for he vented Libells in stead of Sermons, whilst they that heard him did pennance, and his Pulpit was the chair of Repentance for the whole Parish: when he chanced to preach before an assembly of Ladyes, he would confute open breasts, and prove black patches to be the marke of the beast, and ever was in league with some Waiting-woman, or Chamber-maide, of whom he learned the name of every pin and knot, the way to put on their cravats, handcharchiefs and cauls, to pin their bought locks to their rolls, and the very ingredients of their washes, dentifrises, and powders to dry sweat (for it seemes *English* Ladies must, like beefe, be powdered, to keep them from stinking) all which served him in stead of Schoole Divinity, which he abhorred as Popery, or Cavalarisme: when he came to any Lords, or Parliament mans table (whom he preached into great places, as they voted him into livings) there it was that he chiefly promoted the work of Reformation: he visited every dish more strictly then the University of *Oxford*, and imposed censures on the wine, & servants, but would not

suffer

ſuffer Gluttony to be any of the enumerated caſes, nor cauſe one diſh to be ſuſpended from the bleſſed table: when he was full fraught here (though moſt of the wives and daughters of his Claſſis were at his diſpoſall for their ſpirituall, and his corporall conſolation) he would ſneake into a little blinde bordell in Holborne, where he would have three young wenches whip him; ſo great an enemy was he to the ſuperſtition of *Rome*, that what that Church ordained for pennance to take down the fleſh, he uſed to raiſe it. He married his eldeſt ſon to a Parſons daughter, whoſe father ſoon after deceaſed, and left her portion in Sermons, all of the Presbyterian cut, which being tipt a little with the ſtory of the times, and ſome new invectives againſt the Independents, would have ſerved him all his life, when behold a moſt ſad accident; the Trumpeters of Sion (for ſo the Kirk of *Scotland* ſtile themſelves) had juſt changed their old tune, and learned another of the *Engliſh* Troopers, and had ſent ſtrict orders to their ſubjects here, that no more Presbytery ſhould be heard of in the Pulpit, no more Independents delivered to Sathan; this put him into great ſtraights, as well what Sermons to preach, as what Religion to be of; and if he have any, I beleeve he is by this, a Seeker, for I came away without taking leave, having perſwaded two of his teeth to fall out to open me a paſſage, and make his tedious diſcourſes in the Pulpit leſs intelligible.

By this time you will beleeve I had need of a little aire, vvhich I went to take in St. *Iameſes* Parke, vvith a reſolution, that if I could, like the Camelion, live by it, never to be a Caniball, and feed on mans fleſh more: vvhen I came into the Parke, it was Sunday after Sermon, and by

reaſon

reason that Spring-garden was by speciall order shut, and so the tarts and rhenish-wine suspended till the next day; I found the great walke full of Ladies and Gentlemen, and all of my acquaintance, which made me steale back againe for fear of being ingaged; and as I was nigh the outmost gate, a leane chaplain Chymist starts out of the cockpit, snaps me up, and when he had conveied me home, clapt me into a Pill, and carried me the next morning to a grave Member of the House of Commons, of the Presbyterian judgement: the Gentleman made many faces, & was very unwilling to swallow me, for (as I understood since) he tooke me for the self-denying Ordinance; at length he past me, and I began to comfort my self, in hope now to comprehend the true meaning of the Covenant; but I soone found that he knew no more of that then I, but had trusted the Assembly with the interpretation, and they the *Scots*; he never spake in the House till he received a nod from some of the Grandees of his *Iunta*, whom they needed not trouble themselves to keep in ignorance, Nature had saved them that labour: He never spoke *Non-sence*, but he told Mr. Speaker twas the sense of the City, and thought the best Government in the world, was a Commoncounsell; at last I began to dislike the dulnes of my clime, and resolved to be gone, and thought to have taken my opportunity one day, when the House was divided; and those of my Patrons faction went out, but he (conceiving that two valiant Independents, who stood neer the door, looked sterne upon him) durst not go out, but hath been ever since for a balloting box, and was in minde once to move the House, that (seeing he, and many more of his party had voted blindfold, for above

two

two years together) thoſe two Gentlemen might at leaſt be blinded, when the Houſe was divided, that ſo people might go according to their conſciences. Well, thought I, tis not ſafe for me to dwel with a man of ſo little courage, leſt I be knocked; ſo when his noſe dropt, I ſlipt out, and got into the noſegay of him that was next me, who happened to be of the other faction, he ſoone ſnuft me up into his noſe, and thence into his head.

When I began to underſtand his ſecrets, I wondred to ſee him there, for I found that he was no member, but unlawfully returned; and looking into his conſcience, perceived he was no Independent neither, only he had received this light, that the only way to ſtay in the houſe, was to ſeeme ſo, and his ſtaying there the only way to eſcape the comming to an account for fifty thouſand pounds he owed the State. *Mercury* was never in his own element till he came to him, for I learned my old trade of ſtealing, perfecter then ever; I uſed before to filch here and there, a bit from ſuch as were not aware of me; but I was with one now, who took all he ſaw, even from them that truſted him, and like *Midas*, turned every thing he touched into gold. Then he had other trades too, he would fall in talke with people he never ſaw, and make them ſpeak againſt the Army, which he adored (eſpecially ſince their great Remonſtrance ſpeaks nothing of accountants, and would threaten to informe, except they compounded with him: nay, he was the Grandees ſetter, to watch what the Presbyterians who ſate next him whiſpered one to another; he applied himſelf to the Congregations too, would have been entred at the Orthodox Club at the Roſe, but they were too honeſt for

 him,

him, and would talke all day of glorious lights, and ſteale at night to a bandy houſe, without ſo much as a Lanthorne and candle; whether for ſecreſie I know not, or covetouſneſſe; for he was ſo ſparing, that two pence roaſt-beefe in Hell was a feaſt to him, which he diſpatch't vvhen the Houſe was up, for ſooner he durſt not goe, though he ſhould have ſtarved, for feare of diſpleaſing the Grandees: This cuſtome kept him faſting ſo long, that I began to be in danger of my life (for nothing kills *Mercury* ſooner then faſting ſpittle) which made me thinke of diſlodging, and I tooke my opportunity one Sunday, as he was preaching in a Coach-houſe, in Vinegar yard, and came out of him without a lavvfull call.

Reader, I ſhould now deſcend, to acquaint thee with my ſeverall tranſmigrations through the Ladies of this Town, vvith many of which I have had not only a ſuperficiall correſpondence (as vvith the ſequeſtered) but much intimacie too; I ſhould relate how I was toſt like a Shuttle-cock, from this Lady, to that Lord, from him, to the next waiting-woman, and ſo to the Roarers, where I learnt to ſtand bare to exchange women, and call Chamber-maids Madam, and by them ſent to the Citie, and ſo backe againe to *Weſtminſter*. How I went in the long vacation to the *Bath*, and hovv I paſt my time there, but this would require a volume by it ſelfe, and vvould containe a Diurnall, or rather Nocturnall of the women of this Town. But moſt men being ſo ingenious in the vvritings of others, and malice being the greateſt ingenuitie of this Age, I feare I ſhould not want Commentators, vvho would point out every Subject, as

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if ſhe vvere named, or glanc't at, vvhich proceedings *Mercury* abhorres; nothing but this can ſublimate me, and make me poyſon, by rendring that a Libell, which was meant a faithfull hiſtory: And though I am not ignorant, that if I ſhould take ſo bad a courſe, I might happily pleaſe more generally, then I diſpleaſe; the Ladies of theſe times having no higher pleaſure, or greater Lechery, then to heare one another ſpoke ill of, and to joyne in the defamation; yet all that cannot vvorke with *Mercury*, who amongſt all his theſts, never ſtole any perſons reputation from him; and though he have much of a Freneh man, yet he is unlike them in this qualitie of theirs, that if they get poſſeſſion of a beauty, they cannot reſt, till they proclaime her name to all the world: No, the obligation I have to that Sex, is too notorious to expect ſuch a returne, they having kept me out of Gilders ſhops, and Schoole-Maſters clutches (vvhere I ſhould have made ointments for ringwormes, and waters for ſcabbie Children) to give me a noble habitation in their owne bodies and boſomes. Thus much notwithſtanding, to avoid calumnies, I am forced to ſay in generall, for mine ovvne juſtification, That many of theſe beauties having made their breath ſtink with talking baudy, would lay the fault upon poore *Mercury*. And as for the old ſaying, that Ladies never piſs, but ſpit only, though the modeſty of that, & all ſuch expreſſions be wholly laid aſide, few fearing to avow any evacuation of nature, or to call it by any name; yet that Proverb was never litterally true till now, for few females of my acquaintance void any moiſture, but at the pores, and mouth: Sure, if I had been as much in credit thirtie yeares agoe, as now,

this Nation might have been happy, and have avoided this warre, and undone hackney Coach-men, for the Children of this Age (I meane still of Lords and Gentlemen) which will be men the next, will be of too delicate a constitution to make Troopers of, and will be contented to travell up and downe, in Chaires and Litters. See then rare beauties the reciprocall obligation you have to *Mercury*, who hath not only changed himselfe into more shapes then ever *Jupiter* did, to serve your Sex, but even of a God, made himselfe corruptible, to be disgested by you, and converted into you, and your posteritie, so that whilst he lives, he lives serving you, and when he is killed, his desire is that he may be employed to make Looking-glasses, that so he may ever be before your faces.

FINIS.